

operation of Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and its sources of funding. The recommendations of the GoM have since been received.

The Finance Minister, in his speech while presenting the budget for 2001-02 has announced the launch of a package of incentives to improve the power distribution system in rural areas. This includes completion of electrification of bulk of the remaining villages in the next 6 years; extension of assistance to the States for village electrification works under the Prime Minister's Gramodyog Yojana (PMGY) whose funding is being augmented; stepping up credit support from the Rural Electrification Corporation to SEBs for speedy electrification of dalit bastis, households of scheduled tribes and other weaker sections of society; improving the quality of power supply in villages, augmentation of distribution networks in rural areas supported by REC under the Accelerated Power Development Programme; earmarking a sum of at least Rs. 750 crore out of RIDF for rural electrification works; and augmenting the resources of REC, by allowing it to float capital gains tax exemption bonds along with NABARD and NHAI under Section 54 EC of the Income Tax Act.

Construction of tourist lodges in Uttar Pradesh

†*579. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive action plan for the year 2001-2002 for construction of tourist lodges (Yatri Niwas) in the country, especially in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the location-wise details of the projects which have been accorded priority after consultation with the State Government; and

(c) the State-wise amount of financial assistance provided for such projects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR); (a) The Department of Tourism,

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

[25 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Government of India extends Central financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations every year for projects for development of infrastructure including Tourist Lodges/Yatri Niwases. The projects are prioritised every year in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations based on the merit of the proposals, their interse priority and availability of funds.

(b) The location of projects etc. are decided during the prioritisation meetings which are generally held in June-July every year.

(c) Does not arise.

Presence of Netaji in Russia after his plane crash

***580. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:**

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Netaji died in an air crash of Japan's Tarhoku island in August, 1945;

(b) whether evidence is available that Netaji was in Russia long after plane crash; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The whole issue relating to disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in August, 1945 forms part of the Terms of Reference of a Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice M.K. Mukherjee, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

The Terms of Reference of the Commission are as follows:—

(a) whether Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is dead or alive;

(b) if he is dead, whether he died in the plane crash, as alleged;

(c) whether the ashes in the Japanese temple are ashes of Netaji;

(d) whether he has died in any other manner at any other place and, if so, when and how;

(e) if he is alive, in respect of his whereabouts.